

32692
Customer Number

Patent
Case No.: 54676US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: RAJAN, SUNDAR J.
Application No.: 09/937587 Confirmation No.: 2684
Filed: March 30, 1999 Group Art Unit 1772
Title: ADHESION-ENHANCING SURFACES FOR MARKING MATERIALS

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief (37 CFR 41.37) mailed April 13, 2007.

Amendment of the Appeal Brief:

Please replace Section V, at pp. 2-3 with the following replacement section.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

With reference to FIG. 4 a cross-sectional view of a signage article in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, the claims at issue concern a signage article comprising a substrate comprising a noncellulosic organic polymeric surface (i.e. not paper), such as the retroreflective sheeting, having a surface exposed to the outdoors comprising a radiation cured coating (layer 82 of FIG. 4 and described at p. 15, lines 11-20) and a marking material (122 of FIG. 4 and described at p. 25, line 12+) disposed on the radiation cured coating wherein the marking material is not substantially removed from the signage article upon wiping the marking material with gasoline for five cycles.

The marking material typically comprises a colorant and certain (i.e. polymeric) binders as recited in dependent claim 4. (See p. 26, lines 21-31)

~~Independent claims 1 recites that the substrate comprises a noncellulosic organic polymer surface.~~

Independent claim 18 recites the same features as independent claim 1 with the exception that the signage article specifically comprises retroreflective sheeting (as the substrate as described at p. 9, line 28 to p. 10, line 2) and that the radiation cured coating specifically comprises an acrylate (See p. 16, line 29-32).

As described beginning at p. 10, line 30, the radiation cured coating layer (e.g. 82 of FIG. 4) is advantageous in that polymeric sheeting material (e.g. retroreflective sheeting) can be constructed with a single layer that contributes the functional properties of a gasoline resistant (i.e. protective) cover layer that is also directly printable.

Remarks

In view of the amendment requested above, the Appeal Brief in now is compliance with 37 CFR 41.37.

If necessary, charge any required fee, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

May 4, 2007

Date

By: /Carolyn A. Fischer/

Carolyn A. Fischer, Reg. No.: 39,091

Telephone No.: 651-575-3915

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833